OHNEP Initiative - The Sky is the Limit!

Oral-Systemic Health Projects in the following 23 states:

- Alabama (AL)
- California (CA)
- Colorado (CO)
- Connecticut (CT)
- Delaware (DE)
- Illinois (IL)
- Kansas (KS)
- Kentucky (KY)
- Maryland (MD)
- Massachusetts (MA)
- Michigan (MI)
- Montana (MT)
- Nebraska (NE)
- New Jersey (NJ)
- New Mexico (NM)
- New York (NY)
- Ohio (OH)
- Pennsylvania (PA)
- Rhode Island (RI)
- South Carolina (SC)
- Texas (TX)
- Virginia (VA)
- Washington (WA)

Our goal is to have oral-systemic projects in all 50 states!

We are now at the end of OHNEP’s second year, and are delighted to say that we have exceeded our original two year project outcomes. Today, twenty three states have oral-systemic health projects in progress… none of which existed two years ago! A lot has been accomplished, multiple faculty development workshops have been conducted, and more than twenty presentations were made at conferences nationwide.

We would like to thank our colleagues from across the country for their loyalty, support, and valuable contributions to the OHNEP initiative! We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you and expanding our networking power in order to reduce the burden of oral disease in America.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Interprofessional Oral Health Core Competencies

Judith Haber, as a HRSA IP Expert Panel Member, presented at the Interprofessional Oral Health Core Competencies (IPOHCC) meeting, sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on September 6-7, 2012 in Bethesda, MD. The purposes of this project are to a) develop a standardized set of core oral health clinical competencies for primary care providers and strategies to enhance oral health primary care team approaches to patient care; b) develop strategies for adoption and implementation of the core oral health clinical competencies in HRSA supported primary care safety net settings.

The official release of the HRSA Interprofessional Oral Health Core Competencies is planned for 2013.

HRSA Region II Oral Health Summit

Judith Haber, OHNEP Co-Executive Director, presented at the Region II Oral Health Summit, organized by HRSA on September 27, 2012 in New York, NY. The purpose of the Summit was to foster coordination and integration to address oral health care needs not only inside the Department of Health and Human Services, but also within the larger Oral Health and Primary Care communities in Region II.

The Summit provided an opportunity to share best practices and innovative programs in oral health prevention, public health, educating and training a diverse oral health workforce and funding opportunities. Approximately one hundred colleagues from the Department of Health and Human Services, Federally Qualified Health Centers, New York and New Jersey Departments of Health, Oral Health Educators, Oral Health and Primary Care Providers, attended the Summit.

Presentations at the National Conferences

Judith Haber presented an oral-health workshop “Leadership in Oral Health Nursing Education & Practice: Enhancing Faculty Capacities” at the “Opening Doors to Leadership: Purpose. Power. Passion” Education Summit, convened by the National League for Nursing (NLN) on September 20, 2012 in Anaheim, CA.

NYU College of Nursing, NYU College of Dentistry and NYU School of Medicine sent an interprofessional team (5 people) to the Fall Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Institute’s meeting “Building Your Foundation for Interprofessional Education” on October 16, 2012 in Atlanta, GA. Programming was anchored in the “Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice”, sponsored by IPEC. Approximately 300 people participated in the meeting.

Judith Haber presented at the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH) Annual Symposium on Oral Health in Primary Care convened in October 7-9, 2012 in Leesburg, VA.
OHNEP Is Going Global

The OHNEP website was developed and officially launched on March 1st, 2012. The website serves as an oral health knowledge hub for nurses and other health professionals.

The main purpose of the website is to facilitate open access and dissemination of oral health nursing education and practice resources. Check www.OHNEP.org for useful videos, presentations, and publications on oral health.

As per Google Analytics data, OHNEP website was visited 905 times by 436 unique users from 3/1/2012 to 10/31/2012. Most visits were made from the United States (878 visits), but we were also surprised to find out that other countries were interested in our national oral health project as well! Among those countries are Canada, China, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, Australia, United Kingdom, Lebanon, Malaysia, Portugal, Thailand, and Turkey.

Please see the image of the U.S. map colored by the intensity of visits.

Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) HRSA Grant

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a 3-year federal grant to NYU College of Nursing to develop the Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) project. The major goal of the project is to promote interprofessional collaboration among nursing, dental, and medical colleagues, and to prepare future generations of colleagues to practice interprofessionally. A clinical focus on the relationship of oral health to overall health will be promoted using innovative interprofessional clinical simulation experiences and virtual cases, that involve NP, dental, and medical students. The NYSIM Center will provide the virtual classroom for this exciting project, that will build oral health workforce capacity, thereby increasing access to oral health care and reducing health disparities.

Oral Health Evidence-Based Practice

At NYU College of Nursing, students complete their evidence-based practice course (formerly known as introduction to research) during their second semester of the bachelor’s program. In the Spring of 2012, NYU Dental Hygiene students began taking the class with nursing students as part of the interdisciplinary educational initiatives across the health science schools. A major course requirement is to complete a poster presentation that involves a team of students completing a mini-systematic review of evidence around a specific topic. Dr. Allison Squires has taught the course since the Spring of 2011 and began integrating oral health topics into the course as part of the OHNEP project. “All students choose which broader topic they’d like to explore during the semester. Nursing students are sometimes reluctant to choose an oral health topic for the project, but once they do and collaborate with dental hygiene students, it transforms their thinking about oral health. Students become much more sensitized to the importance of oral health as a part of regular nursing care and health promotion activities.” The Summer 2012 class had the option of choosing oral health related topics around Oral Health and HPV, Oral Health and Older Adults, Oral Health and Children, or studying a global health issue related to oral health services.